

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who must pay for a bus pass?

Students who meet the following criteria must pay for a bus pass:

All students in Grades 7 – Grade 12

Students in Grades 1 – Grade 6 who live within 2 miles of their respective school

2. How much will the bus pass cost?

The fee is \$180.00 for the first child and \$30.00 for each additional child with a family cap of \$240.00.

3. What if one of my children qualifies for a free bus pass, but my other child does not?

You are only responsible for paying the \$180 bus fee for the child who does not qualify.

4. What happens if I feel that I can not afford to pay the bus pass fee?

Assistance is available based upon your income level. The chart below indicates income levels that may qualify you to receive assistance. The income chart is based upon the 2005-2006 federal standards for income eligibility guidelines. Based upon these guidelines, you may be eligible for either free or a reduced rate. The reduced rate fee is \$90.00 for the first child and \$15.00 fee for each additional child with a family cap of \$120.00.

<u>Free Eligibility Scale</u>				<u>Reduced Price Eligibility Scale</u>		
<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Week</u>
1	\$12,441	\$1,037	\$240	\$17,705	\$1,476	\$341
2	\$16,679	\$1,390	\$321	\$23,736	\$1,978	\$457
3	\$20,917	\$1,744	\$403	\$29,767	\$2,481	\$573
4	\$25,155	\$2,097	\$484	\$35,798	\$2,984	\$689
5	\$29,393	\$2,450	\$566	\$41,829	\$3,486	\$805
6	\$33,631	\$2,803	\$647	\$47,860	\$3,989	\$921
7	\$37,869	\$3,156	\$729	\$53,891	\$4,491	\$1,037
8	\$42,107	\$3,509	\$810	\$59,922	\$4,994	\$1,153
For each additional Family member add....	+\$4,238	+\$354	+\$82	+\$6,031	+\$503	+\$116

5. What do I do if I feel that I qualify for assistance?

If you feel that you may be eligible, based upon the guidelines above, complete the Request for Tuition Assistance Form. Once the Business Office receives your form, an eligibility determination will be made and you will be contacted regarding the decision.

6. What fee will be charged if my child(ren) enrolls or withdraws from the school district during the school year?

The fee will be prorated accordingly.

7. How is the two-mile determination made?

In accordance with State law, distance is measured using the shortest vehicular route from the sidewalk or public way in front of or nearest to the child's home to the public way in front of the school the child attends. This rule will apply to all mileage determinations even if the child has been approved for an alternate pick-up or drop-off site other than his/her home. The School District will utilize "Mapquest" to determine the shortest distance between the student's home and his/her respective school.

8. Can I request that my child be picked-up and/or dropped-off at an alternate site other than his/her residence?

Yes, you may request that your child be picked-up and/or dropped-off at a site other than his/her residence provided that the site remains constant throughout the school year. Please complete the "Alternate Site" section on the registration form.

9. Can I request that my child be dropped-off at a scout meeting, relative's home, or a friend's home?

Yes, you may request temporary changes in your child's transportation arrangements by submitting a written request to the Principal. We will attempt to accommodate your request on a space available basis.

10. What if I only need the bus one way, only 2 or 3 days per week, or only at certain times of the year?

The amount of time your child uses the bus does not matter. Bus costs are budgeted fiscally and cannot be prorated according to varied daily usage.

11. When will I be required to pay the bus fee?

A \$90.00 deposit is due with the registration form on June 1, 2006 and the remaining balance is due by July 1, 2006. The total bus fee must be paid in full by July 1, 2006 in order to receive a bus pass and guarantee your child's seat on his/her assigned bus route. If you feel you qualify for assistance please complete the tuition assistance form found on the reverse side of the transportation registration form.

12. Where do I submit my registration form and payment?

All registration forms and payments must be submitted to the Shirley School District Business Office, 34 Lancaster Road, Shirley, MA 01464. Checks must be made payable to the "Town of Shirley" with the word "transportation" in the memo section.

13. How will I receive the bus passes?

Bus passes will be mailed to the address provided on the registration form before the start of school.

14. Does my child need a bus pass to board the School Bus?

Yes, all bus students are required to carry their bus pass on a daily basis, and present the pass to the driver each day. We strongly suggest attaching the bus pass to the student's backpack. This will keep the pass handy and allow the student to display the pass without delay.

15. What happens if my child loses his/her bus pass?

A replacement bus pass will be issued for an administration fee of \$10.00 per pass.

16. Can my child ride the bus in the event of an emergency dismissal?

In the event of an emergency, students will be transported to an alternate site. All students will remain under the care of school personnel until appropriate transportation arrangements can be made.

17. Can my child's bus pass be suspended or revoked?

Yes, the Shirley School District Student Bus Policy is always in effect as riding the school bus is a privilege. Students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with providing optimum safety. Behavior issues will be dealt with in accordance with school policy. Suspension and/or revocation of riding privileges of any student will not afford a refund of bus fees for any reason.

18. Are Devens students required to pay the bus fee?

No, the current Devens Education Contract provides funding for one bus. However, all Devens students must complete a Registration Form in order to reserve a seat on the bus.

19. Do I need to pay a bus fee if my child attends Nashoba Valley Technical HS?

No, NVTHS is not part of the Shirley School District Transportation System.



REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

STUDENT'S FULL NAME: _____

Part 1. Food stamps or TANF case number					
Does this child have a Food Stamp/TANF case number? YES NO					
Please provide case # _____. Skip to Part 4.					
Part 2. Foster Child					
If this application is for a child who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, list the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____. Skip to Part 4.					
Part 3. Total Household Income from Last Month—You must tell us how much you earned and how often					
1. Name (List everyone in household)	2. Last month's income and how often it was received <i>Example: \$100/monthly \$100/twice a month \$100/every other week \$100/weekly</i>				3. Check if NO income
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security	Other	
<i>(Example)</i> <i>Jane Smith</i>	<u>\$200/weekly</u>	<u>\$150/weekly</u>	<u>\$100/monthly</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<u>\$____/____</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 4. Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)					
An adult household member must sign the "Request for Kindergarten Tuition Assistance." If Part 3 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box.					
Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.					
The Full Day Kindergarten Tuition Assistance Program requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your children for tuition assistance. The Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs this application is required unless you list Food Stamp or TANF case numbers of all children you are applying for, OR if you are applying for a foster child. You must check the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box if the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security Number. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into misuse of program rules.					
<i>I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported I understand that school officials may verify (check) this information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose tuition assistance benefits, and I may be prosecuted.</i>					
Parent/Guardian Signature for Tuition Assistance: _____					
Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a Social Security Number					

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33, Every 2 Weeks x 2.15, Twice A Month x 2	
Monthly Income: _____ Household size: ____ FS/TANF: ____ Date Withdrawn: _____	
Eligibility: Free ____ Reduced ____ Denied ____ Reason: _____	
Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____	